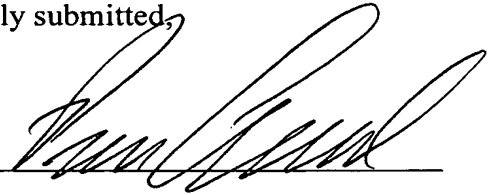


REMARKS

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendment to the specification be made prior to examination of the present application. An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By



Date: January 16, 2004

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